

1. (original) A flexible connector comprising:
 - a length of corrugated tubing having a distal end;
 - an end piece having a proximal end;
 - a length of polymeric tubing surrounding the distal end of length of corrugated tubing and the proximal end piece for initially retaining the proximal end of the end piece in engagement with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing; and
 - a sleeve surrounding the length of polymeric tubing, the proximal end of the end piece, and the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing for permanently retaining the proximal end of the end piece in engagement with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.
2. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 1 wherein the end piece further comprises a plurality of corrugations comprising the proximal end thereof.
3. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 2 wherein the length of polymeric tubing engages the corrugations of the end piece and the corrugations comprising the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing to retain the proximal end of the end piece in engagement with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.
4. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 3 wherein the length of polymeric tubing resiliently engages the proximal end of the end piece and the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.

5. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 3 wherein the length of polymeric tubing is heat shrunk into engagement with the proximal end of the end piece and the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.

6. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 1 wherein the sleeve is crimped to permanently retain the proximal end of the end piece in engagement with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.

7. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 1 further including a length of mesh tubing surrounding the length of corrugated tubing, the length of polymeric tubing, and the proximal end of the end piece.

8. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 7 wherein the end piece further comprises a plurality of corrugations comprising the proximal end thereof.

9. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 8 wherein the length of polymeric tubing engages the corrugations of the end piece and the corrugations comprising the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing to retain the proximal end of the end piece in engagement with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.

10. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 9 wherein the length of polymeric tubing resiliently engages the proximal end of the end piece and the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.

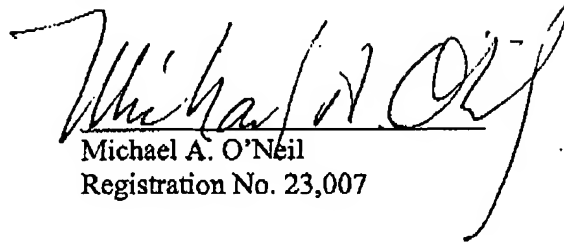
11. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 9 wherein the length of polymeric tubing is heat shrunk into engagement with the proximal end of the end piece and the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.

12. (original) The flexible connector according to claim 7 wherein the sleeve is crimped to permanently retain the proximal end of the end piece in engagement with the distal end of the length of corrugated tubing.

Claims 13-16 (canceled)

Respectfully submitted,

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